

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PERP, TU, US, CY

SUBJECT: TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT
COUNSELOR NIMETZ

REF: STATE 102656

1. AT HIS REQUEST, AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON DEPARTMENT
COUNSELOR NIMETZ APRIL 24 TO DISCUSS TURKISH PROPOSALS ON
CYPRUS AND CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF ADMINISTRATION'S
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM. BRIEF DISCUSSION OF GOT
VIEWS RE OECD TURKEY CONSORTIUM BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

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2. ESENBEL STATED THAT THE TURKISH SIDE HAD DONE ITS VERY
BEST IN PUTTING FORWARD SUBSTANTIAL PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS,
BUT THAT CARAMANLIS WAS SUPPORTING KYPRIANOU IN
CALLING FOR "IMPROVED" PROPOSALS TO DELAY IF NOT PREVENT
NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS. PURPOSE OF THIS OBSTRUCTIONISM IS
TO TRY TO ASSURE THAT EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY WOULD NOT BE

REPEALED BY THE US CONGRESS. ESENBEL ADDED THAT NOBODY SHOULD EXPECT THAT THE TURKISH PROPOSALS WOULD BE IMPROVED UPON PRIOR TO ACTUAL INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON CYPRUS IS TO SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE.

3. NIMETZ REPLIED THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE TURKISH TERRITORIAL PROPOSALS AS HELPFUL AS WE HAD HOPED OR AS WE HAD BEEN LED TO EXPECT THEY WOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF CONVERSATIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER HAD WITH ECEVIT, AND NIMETZ HAD WITH ELEK DAG DURING ANKARA TALKS THREE WEEKS AGO. NIMETZ TERMED PROPOSALS A VERY THIN REED, NOTING THAT THE VILLAGES MENTIONED WERE PRACTICALLY ON THE DEMARCATION LINE AND CONSEQUENTLY TURKS WERE NOT REALLY GIVING ANYTHING AWAY. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S APRIL 6 HIRC ANSWER TO QUESTION, WHICH HAD LED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO BELIEVE THAT MORE SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS WERE FORTHCOMING, HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH GOT IN ADVANCE. NIMETZ ASKED THAT ESENBEL INFORM MFA THAT REGRETABLELY WE DID NOT CONSIDER THE TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS VERY HELPFUL. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARBOUR ADDED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST HAD RECENTLY SPOKEN WITH SIX MEMBERS OF THE HIRC WHO WANT TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM; ALL HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE TURKISH PROPOSALS DID NOT GIVE THEM MUCH TO WORK WITH AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC REGARDING
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CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM.

4. ESENBEL SAID THAT HE OFTEN IS REMINDED BY ANKARA THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS IS CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF THE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM. THE GOT BELIEVES THAT IF SUFFICIENT EFFORT IS MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATION THERE COULD BE A POSITIVE RESULT BY THE END OF MAY. ESENBEL COMMENTED THAT HE HAD NOT OBSERVED ANY VISIBLE SIGN OF WHITE HOUSE INVOLVEMENT AND BELIEVES THE TIME HAD COME FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO INVOLVE HIMSELF DIRECTLY IN PUSHING THE PROGRAM. ESENBEL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT OUR FOCUSING ON CYPRUS WAS DEFLECTING ATTENTION AND ACTION AWAY FROM THE MAIN PROBLEM OF REPEALING THE EMBARGO.

5. NIMETZ COUNTERED BY NOTING THAT IN HIS VIEW THE WHITE HOUSE WAS INDEED BEING HELPFUL IN PRESSING THE PROGRAM. VISIBLE INVOLVEMENT WOULD INCREASE AS SEVERAL OF THE MEETINGS AND BREAKFASTS ALREADY SCHEDULED TAKE PLACE. NIMETZ REITERATED THAT CYPRUS WAS INDEED A FACTOR IN THE OUTCOME OF THE PROGRAM. WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO DE-LINK CYPRUS AND US-TURKISH RELATIONS, IT

WAS NECESSARY THAT THERE BE VISIBLE SIGNS OF POSSIBLE
PROGRESS ON CYPRUS SO PEOPLE ON THE HILL COULD USE THAT AS
A HOOK UPON WHICH TO HANG THEIR VOTE. HE PARTICULARLY
EMPHASIZED THAT IF WALDHEIM DOES NOT CALL FOR A RESUMPTION
OF INTERCOMMUNAL MEETINGS AND IT APPEARS THAT THE WHOLE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS ON CYPRUS IS DEAD, PEOPLE IN CONGRESS

WOULD BE LESS APT TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM. IN RESPONSE TO
ESENBEL'S OBJECTION, NIMETZ STRESSED THAT WE UNDERSTAND
AND REITERATE TO THE CONGRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF TURKISH-
US RELATIONS, NATO, AND TURKISH DEMOCRACY; HOWEVER, THE
ISSUE THAT COMES UP MOST OFTEN IN CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONING
OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS IS CYPRUS. CONSEQUENTLY,
WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, CYPRUS IS A SUBJECT OF ACUTE
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CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST. VANCE

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